

## UPDATE ON OROVILLE DAM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, it has been national news, the situation going on in northern California, where the Oroville Dam is. Obviously, there has been some damage and destruction to the main concrete spillway, as well as the situation with the lake rising and finally going for the first time in 48 years over the emergency spillway.

The dam itself, the earthen structure, 770 feet tall is solid. The emergency spillway is being evaluated, but so far it looks stable itself. It is the issue of the soil in front of it that needs to be stabilized during these days where there is dry weather, where it can be stabilized with rock and concrete.

So what we need to know is: Why did this happen?

This would be what we do later on. First, we need to take care of the emergency situation, the State resources and Federal resources pulling together to make sure people are safe and that the dam remains sound and that we don't lose the structure.

It looks good. I think things are stable for right now. We also need prayer for no more rain for a while, or at least not overwhelming amounts of rain. So it looks good.

We just need patience also from the people that are in the flood plain that have been evacuated to listen to their emergency personnel and follow with that so that they are kept safe during this time of the emergency.

So I think good efforts are underway, and we will investigate later on what went wrong.

## COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today a bipartisan group of 46 freshman Members of this 115th U.S. Congress, representing red and blue States from coast to coast, released a document that we have entitled the "Commitment to Civility."

This evening, I am grateful to be joined on the floor by 21 different leaders of our class, representing diverse districts in 15 different States across

our great Nation to speak to this important and very timely issue.

This commitment document was created in early January following our initial meetings together as a class. We discussed our mutual intent to serve the best interest of the country, and to return to statesmanship that was revered and modeled by the great leaders of our history.

I drafted this document to memorialize our Members' agreement to, among other things, work towards restoring collegiality and civility in the Congress; encouraging more productive dialogue; and building consensus and strengthening the public's trust in America's institutions.

This document is not intended in any way as a criticism of anyone else in any other Chamber or branch of the government. Rather, it represents the mutual commitments of the Members of our class that we have made among and between ourselves.

As we teach our own children, we often have no control over what others may do, but we are ultimately responsible for our own actions. Personally, I want to say how encouraging it is to work with others from across the political spectrum who want to lead by example and work to restore civility in our public discourse. There may never have been a more important time for that very important effort.

I am one who is regarded as probably being among the most conservative Members of the Congress, and I will never deviate from my core principles. However, I am mindful to always remember that while some of my colleagues and I may have very different ideas and core political philosophies, at the end of the day, we are all Americans and we are all made in the image of God; thus, we believe we should act accordingly.

Before my esteemed colleagues come to share their thoughts on this important subject, I would like to introduce and read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the document we refer to as the "Commitment to Civility." It reads as follows:

"As new Members of the United States House of Representatives and as individual citizens we recognize the gravity of the responsibility we have been given and the significance of this moment in the history of our extraordinary country.

"America remains the most free, most powerful and most prosperous nation in all the world, and yet we face significant challenges. Among these challenges has been an increasing division in and coarsening of our culture fueled too often by the vitriol in our politics and public discourse. One result has been a loss of trust in our institutions and elected officials.

"We believe there is a better alternative.

"Although we represent both political parties and a wide range of individual views across the political spectrum, our common and sincere aims

are to serve the needs and interests of the American people, to work with one another and the leaders of our respective parties to encourage greater confidence in our institutions, and to set an example of statesmanship for the younger generation of Americans that will follow.

"To this end, we are dedicated to showing proper respect to one another and all others, encouraging productive dialogue, and modeling civility in our public and private actions. While we may vehemently disagree on matters of law and policy, we will strive at all times to maintain collegiality and the honor of our office.

"We believe that a leader can be cooperative and conciliatory without compromising his or her core principles, and we will remember that our political rivals in Congress are not our enemies—but rather our colleagues and fellow Americans. We also believe that maintaining a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation will help make government work more efficiently and effectively, help build consensus and restore the public trust, and, ultimately, serve as a positive influence on society at large.

"For all of these reasons, we hereby pledge our names to this Commitment to Civility on this 10th day of January, 2017, in Washington, D.C."

The document is signed by 46 incoming Members of the 115th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am delighted to yield to 21 different leaders of our class, representing both political parties and 15 different States across our great land. Each will express their own thoughts on this important subject.

I begin by yielding to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman MIKE JOHNSON from Louisiana, for helping coordinate this effort.

When I got here to Washington for orientation, I will never forget very early on, one of my colleagues, Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON from Texas, came up to me and said: I want to introduce myself. And he did.

He was the first Republican that came up to me and said: I want to get to know you on a personal level. I want to be your friend because we are going to be working together.

I have to tell you how impressed I was that somebody was reaching out across the aisle because they wanted to develop a personal relationship, knowing that we would be able to work together.

Later on, I got to meet the rest of my colleagues at Harvard, where they have a bipartisan program that is a wonderful program and gives you an opportunity to help build these relationships, which I think is so important, especially today in our time.

We just got off one of the ugliest elections in history where it really felt as if civility disappeared. Today it